

[21 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Item	Calcuta	Delhi	Bombay	Madras	Hydrabad	Kanpur
Channels 100 x 50	14100	14100	14200	14500	14800	14500
Plates 6 mm	17800	17500	18000	19000	18200	18500
Plates 8/10 mm	17850	17500	18000	19000	18200	17500
HR Coils 2.00 mm	18800	19000	19500	20000	20200	18700
HR Coils 3.15 mm	17800	18700	18500	19800	19000	18000
CR Coils 0.63 mm	21750	23000	23800	23000	23000	23000
GP Sheet 0.63 mm	26300	26500	28800	26000	28000	26000
GC Sheets 0.63 mm	27000	27000	28800	26500	29000	26250
Melting Scrap	7750	7600	6700	8000	7000	8200
HBI/Sponge Iron	5750	6000	7400	6400	7300	6700

Revision in the VIS of SAIL

3057. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India has sought Government's approval for its revised Voluntary Instrument Scheme, allowing the company to offer arrears of wage revision even after employees have availed of VRS as a step to nurse the SAIL to health; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Growth in Saleable Steel Production

3058. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL has announced a 5 percent growth in saleable steel production during April to March of current financial year;

(b) if so, what was the total steel produced during the last year; and

(c) what was the growth percentage of steel production last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has planned to increase the production of saleable steel by 7% in 2000-01 over 1999-2000. The saleable steel production of SAIL (excluding IISCO) in 1999-2000 was 9.53 MT representing a growth of 11% over 1998-99.

Planning to Re-Introduce VRS in SAIL

3059. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL is planning to re-introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in its plants to get rid of over-staffing in near future;

(b) if so, by when and the details of the proposal and benefits to be given to the employees opting for it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. SAIL has drawn up a scheme, based on the guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises, to introduce Voluntary Retirement. Details of the scheme and effective date of implementation have not yet been finalised.

Direct foreign investment in steel plants

3060. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational companies can make direct foreign investment in steel plants;

(b) if so, the percentage of their equity; and

(c) the percentage of Government equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) As per the existing policy, 100% foreign direct investment through the automatic route under the powers delegated to the Reserve Bank of India is permissible in the steel sector.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Union Government at present has no proposal to setup any new steel plant in the Central Public Sector. Accordingly, the issue of percentage of